

£5 will be given to any person who will pro ure for the advertiser a **SITUATION**, in a mercantile house; out of door business preferred. The greatest secrecy may be relied on. **MERCANTILE HERALD Office.**

£100.—**WANTED, TO BORROW** the above sum cent. will be given provided the mortgage deed does not exceed the cost of £3. Apply, by letter, to **CREDITO, Post Office, Redfern.**

A COMFORTABLE COTTAGE TO LET, at Gipps-street, Paddington, containing five rooms; detached kitchen, shed, enclosed yard, with gate opening to a side street, the use of a well of good water, and pleasantly situated, commanding a view of the harbour from the Head to Government-house. Rent, low to a respectable tenant. Apply to Mr. JOHN SCANLAN, Australian Stores, Paddington.

A PARTMENTS TO LET—a furnished sitting and bedroom, at Marion Cottage, 39, Prince-st.

A PARTMENTS, handsomely furnished, now vacant, at 67, Elizabeth-street North

A PARTMENTS TO LET, furnished, with board if required. Apply No. 1, Bligh-street.

B ALMAIN.—TO LET, a newly-erected two-story HOUSE, in Darling-street, adjoining Dr. Evans'. Enquire at Mr. RAMSAY'S, grocer and agent, Balmain or to Mr. ROBERTSON, Harbourview Hotel, Lower George-street.

BOARD AND RESIDENCE.—A VACANCY for a Single Gentleman, at Flagstaff Farm, Waverley, overlooking the ocean, with stabling. Address Mr. E. O. BULFORD, Railway Office, Phillip-street.

HUNTER'S HILL.—To LET, two comfortable water-side RESIDENCES. Apply to C. E. JEANNERET Lyons-buildings.

NEW TOWN AND COOK'S RIVER ROAD.—To be LET, for 99 years, at moderate rental, in suitable position, a large and commodious freehold, with

OFFICES to LET, near the Supreme Court. Apply to
CHARLES SMITH, late Madame Ferrell's Saloon.

PARRAMATTA.—The following Property To Be Let by Tender:—
A valuable Building FRONTAGE, situated in George-street, Parramatta, known as "Howell's property," including a large and commodious Shop, and several Cottages erected thereon, with permission to take down and re-erect others, upon terms to be agreed upon.
A FARM of 150 acres, in the district of Cast's Hill at Dooral, known as "Tuckwell's farm." There are three

3. In the parish of Prospect, a FARM of 150 acres known for many years as "Howell's," has a Cottage and some temporary buildings; nearly all the land is cleared. The railway to Penrith passes through it, and it is near a station.

For particulars apply to Mr. HILLY, architect, 138 Pitt-street, Sydney.

PARRAMATTA.—Part of a large and comfortable HOUSE TO LET, in a central and healthy situation.

PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTIST.—TO LET, A SKYLIGHT GALLERY, with three rooms, in a central position in George-street; rent, moderate. Address H. F. HERALD Office.

RESPECTABLE BOARD AND RESIDENCE for three or four single men. Terms, £1 per week. For address apply at Mr. COWELL'S, Sunnyside, Ayr.

TO LET, a large, convenient HOUSE. Apply to Captain VILES, 165, Kent-street.

TO LET, an eight-roomed VILLA; one acre Garden, &c., rent £85. Mr. BERSHIRE, grocer, Balmston.

TO LET, the FIRST FLOOR, 235, Pitt-street, between King and Market streets; a private entrance.

TO LET, a CELLAR, in George-street. Apply to RATHBEN, 10, ROTHBURN.

TO LET, a front BEDROOM, furnished or unfurnished
114, Kent-street, facing Gas Hotel.

TO LET, in Victoria-street, a 6-roomed HOUSE, stove
water, &c. C. H. ROOKE, 123, King-street.

TO LET, in Crown-street, a HOUSE of six rooms
PAPWORTH and PHILBEN, 121, King-st. East.

TO LET, a respectable RESIDENCE, Point Piper
Road. PAPWORTH and PHILBEN, 121, King-
street East.

TO LET, a genteel RESIDENCE of six rooms, at
Darlington-street. PAPWORTH and PILBEN, 121,
King-street East.

TO LET, the BASEMENT FLOOR of the spacious
Stores occupied by the undersigned. C. TEAKLE,
Wynyard-street.

TO LET, at Snail's Bay, Balmain, EXETER VILLA.
Apply to G. ELWORTHY, outfitter, &c., 383,
George-street.

TO LET, a HOUSE of seven rooms, garden, &c., in Victoria-street. Apply to F. H. STEPHEN, Esq., Supreme Court.

TO LET, in Kent-street, near Erskine-street, a HOUSE with eight-rooms, kitchen, yard, wa-; rent 30s. per week. Apply Mrs. WHEELER, 248, Kent-street North.

TO LET, the Piece of LAND, near the Circular Quay, lately in the occupation of Mr. Rolf, as a timber yard. Apply to Mr. HILL, Bent-street.

TO LET, CHUSAN COTTAGE, Belmain, lately occupied by J. Black, Esq., M.L.A.: contains four rooms, bath kitchen, servants' room, pantry, washhouse &c. PAIP WORTH and PHILBEN, 121, King-st. East.

TO LET, the VICTORIA HOTEL, Parramatta-street, either for a public-house, or would be suitable for a Drapery or Grocery Store. Apply to A. LAYARD, Jamison street.

TO LET, the old-established HOUSE, West-sheaf-

TO LET, a Waterside RESIDENCE, containing six good rooms, kitchen, laundry, &c.; verandah back and front; the whole well finished, and having a fine view Apply to GARLAND and BINGHAM, 115, York-street.

TO BE LET, A FARM OF 270 ACRES, at SOUTH CREEK. To be let, a farm of 270 acres, on the Badgery Creek, South Creek, a few miles south of St. Mary's. Apply to JOHN ALEXANDER, 64, Margaret-street.

TO LET, the commodious HOUSE and SHOP, 290, Pitt-street, just vacated by Mr. Medcalf, cabinet-maker, well adapted for a boarding-house, or any light

the house contains eight good rooms, large shop, with plate glass front, and cellar; water laid on throughout, drained, and in good repair. Apply to S. HERBLEWHITE, 232, Pitt-street.

TO LET, CRAIGNETHAN, Neutral Bay, a first-class Family RESIDENCE, of twelve rooms, kitchen, stores, cellars, &c., &c.; a productive garden and trees; a large paddock, and a large paddock, and a large paddock, with every requirement ornamental and useful. Rent moderate. Apply to F. J. GRUNDY, Esq., 11, Kent-street.

TO LET, furnished, for such period as may be agreed on, a Gentleman's **VILLA RESIDENCE**, within the city, possessing frontage to Darling Harbour, and accessible by land or water. The house is well appointed, has a spacious verandah commanding a fine view, and has a large garden attached. It is perfectly adapted for the residence of a bachelor or a small family. Apply for particulars to **C. H. HERALD Office.**

CLIFFE, beautiful, more than House, GRAY-
niles from Sydney, with 14 acres enclosed land, the property of John Reeve, Esq. The house contains: on ground floor, drawing-room and dining-room, each 26 x 18 feet; library, two parlours, and bath-room; on first floor, five large bedrooms, with dressing-rooms; off each, closets, &c., &c.; on-out-fices, two large kitchens, scullery, laundry, scullery, two coach houses, 5-stall stable, cow-houses, wall, cellar underneath the house. Apply to JOHN ALEX-
ANDEI, 64, Margaret-street.

TO STOREKEEPERS and others.—**TO LET**, or for SALE, the Darling Downs **STORE**, in the flourishing town of **WARWICK**, Queensland, lately in the occupation of M. Berkman. They comprise a substantial two-storied brick store, 64 x 42 feet; a Dwelling-house of nine rooms, with every convenience, servants' rooms, garden, &c. Attached to the stores are two side stores; and detached a two-storied store, 55 x 50 feet. The largest trade in the district having been carried on in these stores for a number of years. There can be no doubt that the

man of business, a splendid fortune could be realized in a few years. For terms, &c., apply to ROSSITER and LAZARUS, 216, George-street.

Cameras, Lenses, Accessories, and photographic supplies on
SALE. Instructions given in the art. 392, George-street.
FREEMAN BROTHERS.

the ROMNEY, from the BRILLIANT SIDE.
THOMPSON SYMONDS, and CO., George and
Barrack streets.

driven. Apply at GIBSON'S Stables, 402, Castleborough-street South.

will be held at the Central Police Court, at noon, this day.

... of Wellington Road, and several other roads, and
... in a coloured blanket, on which he wanted

ed. Strawberry cow, born about 1880. September.

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MURDER NEAR LIVERPOOL, AND INQUEST.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

In consequence of information received by the police at Liverpool on Monday, the 29th ultimo, a man named James Martin was taken into custody for inflicting dangerous injuries on one William Rothford, a labourer, residing in Cabramatta bush, about two miles from Liverpool.

Rothford lingered until Wednesday evening, when he expired about ten o'clock, and when the fact became known intelligence was sent to the coroner on Thursday, and the inquest took place on Friday, the 2nd instant, at Liverpool, at the house of Mr. Thomas Hill, the sign of the Horse and Jockey; the substance of which is as follows:—

Jane Knight deposed, on oath, that she resided at Cabramatta bush with the deceased, William Rothford; that they lived together as man and wife; she was twenty-three years of age, and a native of Somersetshire, England; her parents were dead, and she had no friends in the colony; deceased was an engineer by trade, and about twenty-seven years of age; on Saturday evening, the 27th August, deceased and Martin went into Liverpool, and came home together that night about ten o'clock, rather worse for liquor, but they had no quarrel. On Sunday morning, the 28th, they were at home; Martin was in the kitchen, and deceased was in the bedroom; he had lost five shillings, when deceased said to him, "Come, my old boy, we'll go into Liverpool, and I'll give you a glass." Witness accompanied them, and they called on two or three friends, and then returned home. This was about ten o'clock at night, and deceased said to witness, "Jenny, if you do not keep out of the way, I will walk into town." Witness kept away as deceased was violent when in drink; the next day, the 29th, Martin, "now James it is time to break up, I want to go to bed;" in about five minutes she heard a noise of a row, and of two blows struck, and when she came to the front door she saw Martin and deceased with a stick in his right hand and his left hand on neck of deceased, with the thumb pressing on his throat; she said "Martin, are you killing him?" when he said "if you do not get out of the way I will serve you the same." She then ran to a tent near hand where a young man was, and asked him to come down, but he said he was frightened, and would not come. She went back, and Martin stood looking at her, she raised the deceased's head, and he was bleeding; he was insensible and never spoke again. Martin went away, bidding her good night. She got deceased into the hut as well as she could, and washed his head. At daylight, the 30th, two men came past the hut, and she called them to her assistance, and asked them to send a doctor out for deceased. Martin came afterwards and asked how deceased was, when she said he was no better, and he went into Liverpool, and was not seen again.

Deceased was attended by Drs. Nind and Watson, and lived until Wednesday night, about ten o'clock, when he expired; he was never sensible. The stick produced at the inquest was the same as the one used by Martin on deceased. Martin and deceased had not been on any bad terms, but they had not known Martin long. She had no friends, nor the means of burying deceased.

Dr. Nind deposed that Martin called on him, on Monday morning, the 29th of August, to see a man at Cabramatta bush; he said "he had killed him," meaning the deceased. Witness accompanied Martin, and found him in a state of insensibility, suffering from violent concussion of the brain, with a lacerated wound of scalp on the upper part of head; he was lying on his back, and was highly dangerous from the onset. Dr. Watson attended him, and he died on Tuesday, and death took place on Wednesday night at ten o'clock. Death was occasioned by concussion of the brain, the result of external violence. The stick produced at the inquest was the same as the one used by Martin on deceased. Martin and deceased had not been on any bad terms, but they had not known Martin long. She had no friends, nor the means of burying deceased.

Dr. Watson deposed that he examined the body of the deceased, and found a triangular lacerated wound of the scalp at the junction of the parietal and occipital bones, with extensive extravasation of blood over the entire surface of the scalp, particularly on the right side, and effusion of lymph on the surface and in the substance of the brain, with quantity of bloody serum; there was no fracture of the skull. He saw deceased in consultation with Dr. Nind, and he saw the stick produced at the inquest, and he saw the stick produced at the inquest, and he saw the stick produced at the inquest.

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This makes the third death from violence in the Liverpool district within the last three months.

COUNTRY NEWS.

ESCAPE OF A PRISONER.—On Wednesday evening, the man Wilson, who was sentenced to three years for the Bathurst mail robbery, and had turned out to be a dangerous character, managed to effect his escape from the watchhouse in William-street. It appears that the prisoner, since his arrival in town, had been kept in the building, in lieu of being sent to the gaol, in order to avoid collision with his late accomplices, and has been permitted to take exercise in the yard surrounding it. He appears to have availed himself of this license, to make his escape, by climbing over the palings at the back, and although the mounted police have been in active pursuit, since his departure was effected no traces of his whereabouts have yet, we believe, been discovered. It is stated that Day, who made the discovery, has been offered for his apprehension. If this be true his desire to escape from custody may easily be accounted for.—*Bathurst Free Press.*

VALUE OF WHEAT.—In Yass wheat is now worth 3s. 6d. per bushel, and meets with ready sale; in Goulburn, 3s. 6d., a fall of 1d. per bushel having taken place last week; in Braidwood, 3s. 6d.; Sydney, 10s. to 11s. 6d.; Maitland, 10s. to 10s. 6d.; Albany, 13s. to 14s.; and Beechworth, 13s. to 14s.—*Courier.*

GOOD HOPE COPPER MINE.—The workmen employed in the above mine, as they proceed in their labours, develop the increasing richness of the lode. Specimens of the ore, described as being of "almost pure copper," in Braidwood, 3s. 6d.; Sydney, 10s. to 11s. 6d.; Maitland, 10s. to 10s. 6d.; Albany, 13s. to 14s.; and Beechworth, 13s. to 14s.—*Courier.*

THE SLEAVES.—A good deal of rain has fallen during the past week. The ground is now very dry; the gardens look well and promising, although that part of the apple has already commenced its deprecations. Several varieties of fruit trees are displaying their blossoms, and the season in every respect is most favourable.—*Ibid.*

OUR GAOL.—We wish particularly to draw the attention of the public to the state of what the Government term our gaol. There are at present two men confined in the cells awaiting their trial, who will not come on till the first week in December. In the intervals it is to be presumed, these unfortunate individuals will remain where they are confined, in cells about eight feet by twelve, the only possibility of breathing being the small quantity of air which will

enter through a few auger holes. There is no provision made for exercise or employment. As a national system, the confinement amounts to the solitary system, and something worse. Braidwood lock-up ought not to have been proclaimed a gaol till it possessed the ordinary conveniences of one.

It is a pity that the Government should have something decidedly wrong to have human beings confined in a place scarcely better than the cages in which the despotism of the middle ages confined its victims. Not one of the prisoners of Austria which Silvio Pellico exposed to the horrors of Europe could be made worse than that miserable building which now rejoices in the absurd title of the Braidwood gaol.

DRAIDWOOD DISPATCH.

PROSPECTING MATCH AT CLEAR HILLS.—On Wednesday last, a prospecting match at Mr. Bucknell's, at the Clear Hills. There were only three competitors, we are sorry to state, and the visitors on the ground were principally from Goulburn. How is this? It is a pity that the Government should have something decidedly wrong to have human beings confined in a place scarcely better than the cages in which the despotism of the middle ages confined its victims. Not one of the prisoners of Austria which Silvio Pellico exposed to the horrors of Europe could be made worse than that miserable building which now rejoices in the absurd title of the Braidwood gaol.

SIX SHILLINGS.—For the past two days considerable quantities of rain have fallen, and present appearances indicate an abundant supply of moisture. These showers have come very opportunely.—*Ibid.*

SOME ELECTRIC DISTURBANCES.—Similar to those noticed on Monday last, interfered with the working of the telegraph during a great portion of Friday. In the evening, however, the wires resumed their ordinary work. The Aurora Australis, which, notwithstanding the clouded state of the sky, was again visible at intervals last evening. The effects were noticed throughout the district.—*Ibid.*

NEW GOLD-FIELD.—We understand that gold has been discovered in one of the tributaries of the Fish River, at Kinniville, a few miles from O'Connell's, and that a superior stock of gold has been discovered in one of the tributaries of the Fish River, at Kinniville, a few miles from O'Connell's, and that a superior stock of gold has been discovered in one of the tributaries of the Fish River, at Kinniville, a few miles from O'Connell's.

A SCORCHING FIRE.—A few days ago a child, whose father is in the employ of Mr. Joseph Woodhouse, Brownlee, when sitting by the fire, began suddenly to scream, crying out that she was burned; the father at once examined her, but could not discover any traces of fire. However, as she still continued to cry, he was unable to get her to sleep, and he called in a doctor. The doctor, on examining her, found a scorching drop from her thigh; it was immediately dropped; a razor was procured, the spot was excoriated, and the wound part sucked to extract the poison. The child, however, was not cured, and she died on Tuesday, and death took place on Wednesday night at ten o'clock. Death was occasioned by concussion of the brain, the result of external violence. The stick produced at the inquest was the same as the one used by Martin on deceased.

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for the funds of "dust," nevertheless just now "the cause produces the effect," in a great measure it is no water, no gold. The same may be said right down to Mulmooling, with the exception of those parties who are the fortunate receivers of water rights. The holders of claims on the Point are generally speaking doing well. At German's Flat the population continues to increase, and it is in contemplation to erect a building as a licensed house on the Flat. Shilling's party gold £180 worth of gold during the past week. Near the Pack Saddle some parties continue to do well. Macpherson's party last week washed out 25 ounces, which was considered a good week's work. At Coleridge Point below Mulmooling, the party and party have at last fallen in with good luck after sinking ten feet, and after the first week's washing obtained something more than 37 ounces, with every prospect of continued success; other claims are equally successful. At Merriumbene mining parties are decidedly satisfactory, the population is daily increasing and claims are being profitably worked. We are informed that at the Morura the crushing machine recently erected by Messrs. Collett and Clark is now in full use, and that gentleman from Sydney has arrived who will take the superintendence. We have been favoured with some very rich specimens of the quartz, and there can be little doubt that the enterprise will apply and speedily repay its spiritual promoters.

ADRIAN QUARTZ AND ALIQUOT DIAMONDS.—There is at present a decided stagnation on the Adelaide. The alluvial claims on the creek have, with one exception, been abandoned, some say it is no gold, others say there is plenty of gold, but too much water. There is, however, a prospect of our creek being reworked in a few months, by a party of thorough practical men, who are in the opinion of a number of old hands, that this creek is as rich as any creek in Victoria, but the immense influx of water renders it unworkable, unless machinery be applied. The only claim at present persevering in that belonging to Messrs. Collett and Clark is now in full use, and that gentleman from Sydney has arrived who will take the superintendence. We have been favoured with some very rich specimens of the quartz, and there can be little doubt that the enterprise will apply and speedily repay its spiritual promoters.

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FORSTER, who was not unwilling to take it, subject to some explanations which have yet to be made. Mr. FORSTER has engaged to meet Mr. MURRAY this morning, at ten o'clock, in order to come to an explicit understanding.

Mr. MARTIN has been offered, and has accepted, the post of Attorney-General. Some personal objections have been stated to exist to including this gentleman in the list of the Cabinet, but these are believed to have been overruled. The appointment to the office of Solicitor-General has not yet been decided on; it will probably rest with Mr. MARTIN to make that choice.

Up to last evening no communication had been opened with Mr. ISAACS, but it was not at all improbable that an offer would be made of the post to that gentleman, with the leadership in the Legislative Council, and a seat in the Cabinet. The office of Public Works is proposed to be detached from that of Land, but no gentleman has yet been designated for the post.

Overtures have, we hear, been made, indirectly and through a third person, to the effect that Mr. COWPER would not be unwilling to entertain proposals for a Coalition, provided that he could carry Mr. ROBERTSON with him. Mr. FORSTER, it is understood, is favourable to the suggested union, but Mr. MURRAY has been no party to this negotiation.

Mr. MURRAY waited yesterday afternoon, at four o'clock, on the GOVERNOR-GENERAL, in order to acquaint him with the progress he had made. His Excellency was not at home at the time, and Mr. MURRAY left word that he would furnish a final answer by one o'clock to-day. The lateness of the hour at which he received his Excellency's message on Saturday afternoon prevented his doing much on that day; and Sunday was, to some extent at least, a *die non*. When the House meets this afternoon it is probable that some definite explanation will be given, or else it will be announced that Mr. MURRAY has failed in his task, and returned his commission into his Excellency's hands.

THERE are many maxims in the world which, like knives in the hands of children, are rather dangerous to handle, and among them are these: "A foreign war is necessary to establish a dynasty;" "The suppression of an *amete* increases the strength of a despotism;" "The storms that attack the forest tree, cause its roots to strike more deeply." In the face of these maxims we sometimes see a dynasty swept away by the reflux of armies—a Government overthrown in an insurrection, and a forest tree torn from the earth, and never more a leaf revived.

The Ministry have attempted to apply these maxims. Either from weakness or from artifice they have allowed themselves to be placed in a minority, which they might easily have escaped. For the moment they profess to succumb, but their expectations are already known. It was said long before the Parliament met, that they intended to yield to the first impulse of an adverse majority, under the impression that the colony could give them no successors. In this they may be right. It is possible we may be in that deplorable condition. We said "successors," but this language is far too wide; we should rather have said, there is but one man. All the members but one of the Cabinet are comparatively new; and there are plenty such. Even the most ancient—Mr. ROBERTSON—must feel all the insecurity and uneasiness of an unnatural association. His sympathies are with the position, and his duty is with the head of the Government. Hence his speeches out of the House, as well as some of his statements within it, seem rather intended to keep open his communications than to support his chief—and this is not treachery, but instinct.

Such is the upshot of our free institutions, that we are brought down to one man. We must either take refuge with Mr. COWPER and his manager, clean and unclean, or be swept away by the deluge! Is it so?

Let us look for a moment at the position in which the Ministers stood when the notice of motion had been given by Mr. PARKES. They were, no doubt, involved in the inconsistencies of their former addresses to their constituents and of their former votes, but it seems now to be tolerably understood that no man is bound, when in power, by what he says in Opposition, and that no man is bound within the House by his professions out of doors—that although these matters may be fit for a taunt or to round off an invective, they are notwithstanding to be considered merely as the skillful play of political gladiators.

When Mr. PARKES had given notice of his motion, there were several days for the consideration of the subject. The members of the Government had declared the tax upon tea and sugar as unequal and oppressive; they had pronounced the state of the revenue, not merely as encouraging, but sufficient—flourishing—redundant. The conclusion, therefore, with respect to the duty was inevitable. Had they originally intended to reduce this tax, would they have omitted it from the Speech? Would not a thing so popular have glittered in that constellation of performances and promises. But, in fact, men in office think differently. To part with £150,000 was to part with the means of much usefulness, as well as the gratification of many adherents. With this £150,000, skilfully applied, there might be many bridges erected, many grants made to local institutions, and many indomitable provided. The loss of it would either require new taxation, whether for the public service or for the consolidation of their parliamentary strength. Having reviewed all these points, it was necessary for them to come to a determination; but like men who do not act upon principle, they committed themselves to chance, and chance did for them what it is accustomed to do. Acting without concert, and without consent, they said contradictory things. Having no plan, they inclined, some to the retention, and some to the relinquishment of the tax, and their wavering communicated itself to some who were found in the majority, only because they saw the Ministers stood by nothing.

It is worth while to look at the position of the new members with reference to the tax. How would a man, not unfriendly to the Government or the tax, and not in the enjoyment of the confidence of the Ministry, reason? Would he not say: "The repeal of this duty must be a popular measure. It will nevertheless deprive the Parliament of the means of much usefulness. If, however, I support the continuance of the tax, I shall probably be left high and dry. The

Ministers finding perhaps a majority opposed to them, will act consistently with the opinion they have elsewhere expressed, and repeal the tax. It is true they ask me to support the 'previous question,' but that will be unpopular. Deprived, therefore, of any guidance but my own judgment, I had better make myself safe. If the Government ultimately repeal the tax, I shall have the honour, in the eyes of the public, of having promoted it. If they resolve to retain it they will still have the power of obviating the consequences of a popular vote." It was under such circumstances that several, at least, who would have voted for the Ministers—had they been true to themselves and to each other—either withdrew from the House, or voted with the Opposition.

The repeal of these duties was not a new subject, and ought not to have escaped the consideration of the Cabinet through the long recesses. They must, in preparing their estimates have also considered their ways and means. It is incredible that they had any intention to repeal the duties on tea and sugar, and that these formed any part of their plan. It is evident that during the interval between the notice of Mr. PARKES' motion and its submission to the House, they had adopted no decided opinion upon the subject, founded upon the interests of the country or the exigencies of the treasury. They were not disposed to relinquish the tax, but if possible to retain it without avowing themselves advocates for its continuance. They have thus placed themselves, as well as their supporters, in a false position; and whatever be the result of this crisis, whether their restoration to office or their departure, they have done nothing to entitle them to the confidence of honest supporters, or the applause of those who prize a well performed task.

It is said that the tax upon tea and sugar is oppressive. Of course it is so if the doctrine be admitted, that two-thirds of the community are to pay nothing whatever towards the expenses of Government. Such is the doctrine we have heard recently avowed. Our system of taxation requires revision, and it is quite possible to raise a revenue, which shall demand a larger proportion from property. In this, however, we must be governed much by the prevailing practice of States. If we press more heavily upon property in this community than common elsewhere, we simply impose a tax upon investment, and discourage the improvement of our own colony in comparison with others. There is, however, a margin which will admit of fair and productive taxation, and this is well worthy the consideration of any Government.

It may be desirable to reduce the duty upon tea and sugar to the former scale. The increased tax was imposed at a time of peculiar pressure. The total abolition, however, is the surrender of a most valuable financial resource. Nothing that we consume so fully meets all the conditions required in a sound fiscal system. These are articles which are neither necessities nor luxuries, but which occupy the ground between both. They are nevertheless articles of universal consumption, and will continue so under any probable change of our colonial circumstances. They do not in any way interfere with domestic industry—they have, therefore, none of the vices of protection. The tax is distributed throughout the whole community without making an exception to any favoured class. The value in comparison to the bulk and the means of transport make smuggling, if not impossible, improbable. Thus we have all the conditions which writers upon this subject have described as requisite in taxation.

Our duties upon spirits and tobacco are so large as already to offer a premium to the smuggler. They cannot, therefore, be augmented. A reduction in the duty upon sugar will of course increase the profit of illicit distillation, unless there be a corresponding reduction in the duty upon spirits. Thus the entire removal of this duty will have the effect of not only sweeping away the productive tax, but also of diminishing another.

Would it not have been far better to have retained this tax in part than to abolish it; to appropriate the proceeds to one of those objects in which the whole community are equally interested? The distinction between property and no property—between the poor and the rich, could not have been made? For instance, we want at least £70,000 or £80,000 for the support of educational institutions. The amount of the duty upon sugar and tea even reduced one-half would yield this sum. Would there be any injustice to appropriate it definitely for this particular purpose. We find in the annals of the American colonies that particular duties were so appropriated for the purpose of reconciling all classes to the tax.

Whilst, of course, in common with the whole community we should be glad to have our burdens lightened, we believe it would be far better, if education is to be the object of public care, that the entire sum raised from tea and sugar should be consecrated to its use, than that we should in a hasty manner relinquish a resource which it will not be easy to supply. We ought not to commit ourselves blindly to the principle of reducing the revenues of the colony, because they happen to be for the moment redundant. It should be remembered that we are now borrowers to a large extent—that we have entered upon works which will be for a long period unproductive, and that a time will come when the ordinary revenues of the country will be insufficient to meet its engagements if they are cut down to the minimum. Surely it is necessary that there should be some surplus, which, though it can be usefully appropriated, can also be spared, that we may not have instantly to fall back upon increased taxation when the moment of difficulty comes upon us.

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